

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of preparing a salt of a tocopherol dibasic acid hemiester, said method comprising:
 - 5 (a) providing (i) a tocopherol dibasic acid hemiester starting material and (ii) a divalent metal salt; and
 - (b) reacting the tocopherol dibasic acid hemiester starting material and the divalent metal salt in a supercritical fluid medium.
- 10 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the tocopherol dibasic acid hemiester starting material comprises tocopherol succinic acid.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the divalent metal salt comprises a calcium salt reagent.
- 15 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the divalent metal salt comprises a component selected from the group consisting of CaO, Ca(OH)₂ and CaCO₃.
- 20 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the supercritical fluid medium comprises CO₂.
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the supercritical fluid medium is held at a temperature of from about 30°C to about 400°C and a
25 pressure of from about 60 bar to about 800 bar during the reaction.
7. The method according to claim 5, wherein the supercritical fluid medium further comprises one or more modifiers.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the one or more modifiers is present in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 10% by weight.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the one or more
5 modifiers is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, cyclohexane, benzene, toluene, xylene, ethers, tetrahydrofuran and mixtures thereof.